

RINVENIMENTI MALACOLOGICI

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**ON THE OCCURRENCE OF THE GASTROPOD *XENOPHORA*
(*STELLARIA*) *CHINENSIS CHINENSIS* (PHILIPPI) IN THE SEA SHORES
OF THE YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC (**)**

KEY WORDS: Gastropoda, Xenophora, Red Sea.

Riassunto

Xenophora (Stellaria) chinensis chinensis (PHILIPPI) è caratterizzata dalla conchiglia conico-depressa inglobante numerosi granuli petrosi. Si tratta del primo rinvenimento lungo le coste orientali del Mar Rosso. La sua distribuzione si estende dal medio all'estremo Oriente. Si hanno ritrovamenti fossili a partire dal Miocene superiore.

Abstract

Xenophora (Stellaria) chinensis chinensis (PHILIPPI) is characterized by its conical shell which contains foreign grains. This is the first record of this species in the eastern shores of the Red Sea. It was found in regions extending from the Far to the Middle East. Stratigraphically, it ranges from the Late Miocene to the Holocene.

Introduction

During a recent study of the marine mollusca of the Yemen Arab Republic, some shells belonging to the gastropod genus *Xenophora* have been collected from the southeastern shores of the Red Sea at Al-Mukha Town (Fig. 1). On the basis of their morphological features these shells are attributed to *Xenophora (Stellaria) chinensis chinensis* (PHILIPPI, 1841). This is the first record of the present species in the eastern shores of the Red Sea. The nearest geographical occurrence of *X. (S.) chinensis chinensis* lies in the coasts of the Sudan in the western side of the Red Sea (see Fig. 3).

The present study is devoted to the description of the recorded shells.

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(**) Lavoro accettato il 10 dicembre 1988.

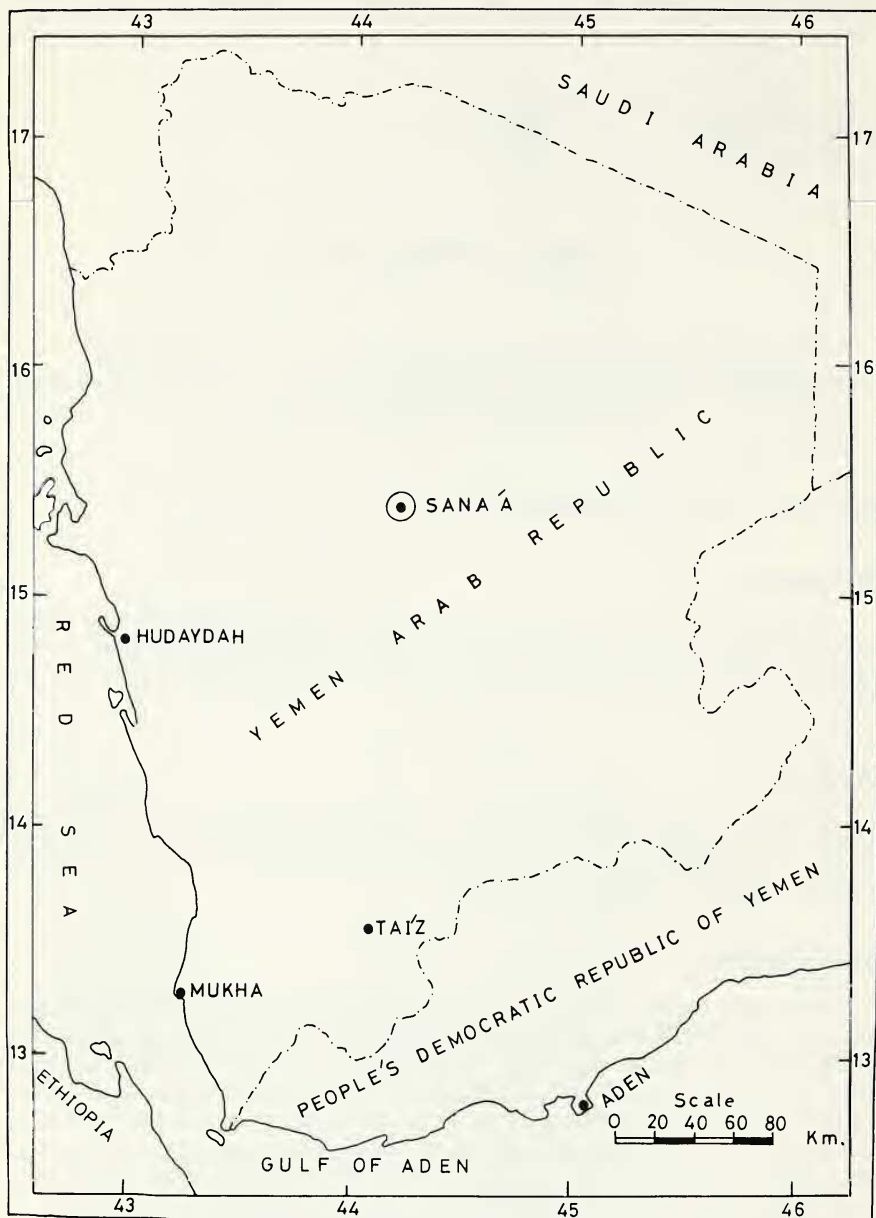


Fig. 1: Yemen Arab Republic, location map.



Fig. 2: *Xenophora (Stellaria) chinensis chinensis* (PHILIPPI)
a: Top view, x 1.05. - b: Apertural view, x 1.20. - c: Basal view, x 1.10.

Xenophora (Stellaria) chinensis chinensis (PHILIPPI, 1841)
(Fig. 2 a-c)

non *Trochus chinensis* GMELIN, 1791.
Trochus chinensis PHILIPPI, 1841: 8.

DESCRIPTION: (described specimen Fig. 2 a-c)

Shell moderately large, conispiral, conical with relatively low spire, apical angle about 100°, protoconch multispiral, homeostrophic; teleoconch consists of 4 dextrally coiled whorls; wall thin, strong, containing several large foreign grains most of which consist of dark green volcanic rock fragments ranging between 2 and 6 mm in length; the grains are embedded in the wall of the shell, when any grain falls it leaves a polygonal depression in the wall; the surface of the shell is covered with numerous polygonal depressions which represent the places of the fallen grains; the grains and the polygonal depressions are spirally arranged covering the suture lines; the suture lines are flush and obscured by the foreign grains; base almost flat, subcircular, covered with callus, ornamented with curved, beaded lines, the clearness of the lines increases away from the aperture; umbilicus small, narrow, covered by a blug which is broken, the exposed part of the umbilicus has a reticulate ornamentation; aperture, elliptical, its peripheral margin is compressed, outer and inner lips are thin, slightly curved outwards; periphery carinate.

DIMENSIONS of the described and figured specimen:

Height: 1.70 cm - Width: 3.05 cm.

LOCALITY:

The sea shore of the Mukha Town, southeastern Red Sea, Yemen Arab Republic (Fig. 1).

OCCURRENCE:

The present species is found as a rare form in the sea shore of the Mukha Town.

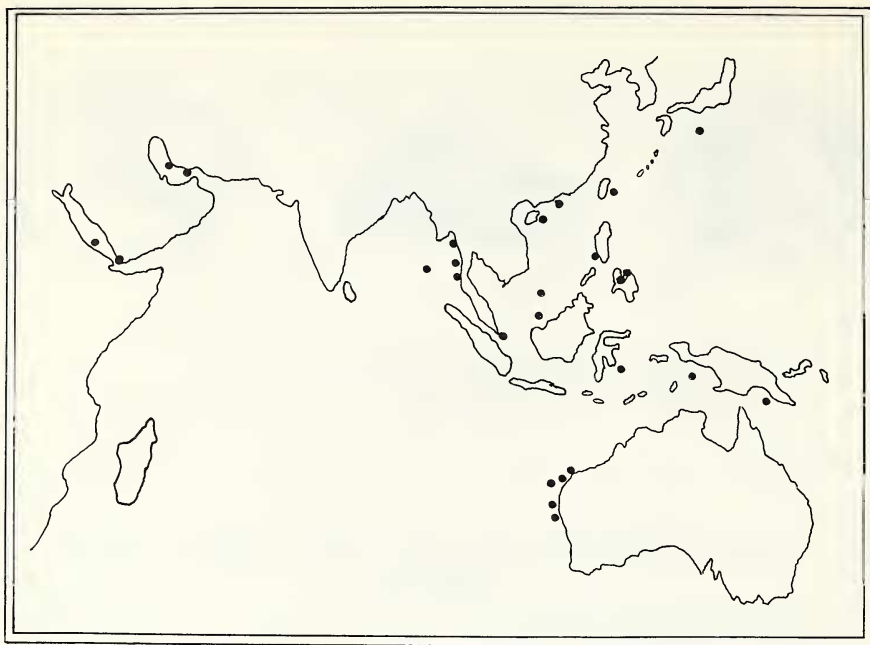


Fig. 3: Geographical distribution of *X. (S.) chinensis chinensis* (PHILIPPI), after PONDER (1983); the occurrence in southeastern Red Sea is based on the results of the present study.

DEPOSITORY:

The figured and the unfigured specimens are deposited in the Department of Geology, Faculty of Science, University of Sana'a, Sana'a, Yemen Arab Republic.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION:

According to PONDER (1983), *X. (S.) chinensis chinensis* was recorded in the Red Sea, Arabian Gulf, eastern Indian Ocean and central Indo-Pacific north to Japan and south to Papua. (Fig. 3)

STRATIGRAPHICAL RANGE:

Late Miocene-Holocene (cf. Ponder, 1983).

Aknowledgement

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